

REMARKS

In order to promote administrative efficiency and better communication, the Examiner is invited to make suggestions at any time during the proceedings, via phone, fax or e-mail, whenever such suggestions are within the Examiner's discretion as an aid to placing the claims in order for allowance in a timely manner.

Specification:

The Examiner objected to the incorporation by reference of certain foreign patent documents. As Applicant has already indicated in Applicant's Amendment dated August 3, 2004 (see page 6 of said Amendment), Applicant deletes, without prejudice, the objectionable incorporation and includes marked up paragraphs showing the deletions. It is believed that the deletion of the incorporation language renders moot the Examiner's objection as such documents are no longer incorporated into the instant application. Therefore, it is believed that Applicant has fully complied with the Examiner's request and, consequently, the application can now be passed on to allowance. Acknowledgement of this fact is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his allowance of claims 1, and 3-14.

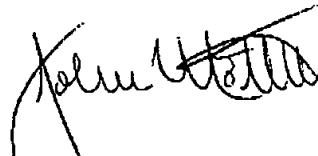
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Conclusion

If the Examiner has further questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at phone 011-4122-747-7849, fax at 011-4122-347-7887 (Geneva is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Std Time), or e-mail at moetteli@email.com.

Applicant petitions the Commissioner for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR §1.136 for a period of X month and the Undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee or credit any overpayment of any fee under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 which may be required in this application to the deposit account of BUGNION S.A., no. 50-0800.

Respectfully submitted,



John MOETTELI
U.S. Reg. No. 35,289

Date : Dec 9, 2004

Enclosure: Clean copy of amended paragraphs

CLEAN COPIES OF AMENDED PARAGRAPHS

In the paragraph beginning on line 25, on Page 1:

Application EP 1 066 767 discloses a boot having a rigid shell comprising a sole and on which a rigid collar is articulated. The shell has a notch on the top of the foot as far as the top of the instep. Semirigid elements are fixed on either side of this notch and overlap on the top of the foot to guarantee watertightness. These elements are produced, for example, from leather or from a synthetic material. This boot is closed and tightened using lever, tie, and buckle devices that interact with hooks. Such devices, when fixed on flexible elements, create zones of compression over users' feet.

In the paragraph beginning on line 5, on Page 2:

To remedy this problem, it is possible to use a lace, as in application WO 96/03186. The snowboot described in that document has a hard shell produced in a single piece that surrounds the lower leg and heel of the rider, but has an opening on the top of the foot and soft parts covering this opening. The soft parts comprise eyelets in which a lace slides and, when tensioned, makes it possible to close and tighten the boot by the soft parts being brought closer together.